Delay in pronouncing judgements

*51. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the serious delays caused by the members of higher judiciary in the country by sitting over orders for years after having completed the hearings in the matters;

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to solve this problem through legislation or directions and guidelines;

(c) if so, by when that is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, how Government propose to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Government is aware that in some cases in the High Courts there may be unusual delay in pronouncing judgements after hearings have been completed. The matter, however, is an internal working of the judiciary and the various High Courts have their own rules and procedures on such issues. The Supreme Court of India has considered the issue of delay in pronouncing judgements and unexplained long interval between conclusion of arguments and delivery of judgements and given detailed guidelines regarding expeditious pronouncement of judgements. In Criminal Appeals No. 389 of 1998 in the case of Anil Rai *vs.* State of Bihar with Criminal Appeals No. 387-88 of 1998 in the case of Subash Chand Rai and another *vs.* State of Bihar with Criminal Appeal No. 199 of 1999 in the case of Awani Rai *vs* State of Bihar, decided on August 6, 2001, the Supreme Court framed the followed guidelines to be followed by the High Court.

(i) The Chief Justices of the High Courts may issues appropriate directions to the Registry that in a case where the judgement is reserved and is pronounced later, a column be added in the judgement where, on the first page, after the cause-title, date of reserving the judgement and date of pronouncing it be separately mentioned by the Court Officer concerned.

(ii) That Chief Justices of the High Courts, on their administrative side, should direct the Court officers/Readers of the various Benches in the High Courts to furnish every month the list of the cases in the matter where the judgements reserved are not pronounced within the period of that month.

(iii) On noticing that after conclusion of the arguments the judgement is not pronounced within a period of two months the Chief Justice concerned shall draw the attention of the Bench concerned to the pending matter of such cases in which the judgements have not been pronounced within a period of six weeks from the date of conclusion of the arguments amongst the Judges of the High Court of their information. Such communication be conveyed as confidential and in a sealed cover.

(iv) Where a judgment is not prouounced within three months from the date of reserving judgement, any of the parties in the case is permitted to file an application in the High Court with a prayer for early judgement. Such application, as and when filed, shall be listed before the Bench concerned within two days excluding the intervening holidays.

(v) If the judgement, for any reason, is not pronounced within a period of six months, any of the parties shall be entitled to move an application before the Chief Justice of the High Court with prayer to withdraw the said case and to make it over to any

other Bench for fresh arguments. It is open to the Chief Justice to grant the said prayer or to pass any other order as he deems fit in the circumstances.

New scheme for girl child

*52. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for the girl child has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds for implementation of the scheme would be allocated to States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Conditional Cash Transfer for the Girl Child with Insurance Cover has been included in the Annual Plan 2007-2008 as a Central Sector Scheme and includes cash transfer to the family of the girl child based on the fulfilment of four important conditionalities *viz.* birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age.

(c) to (e) As the scheme is proposed to be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme, States will not be allocated funds for implementation.

Implementation of mega food projects

*53. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many mega food projects in the country are in the process of implementation and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) how many more parks are proposed to be established in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has submitted a scheme to Planning Commission, which envisages providing financial assistane for setting up of thirty mega Food Parks in the country during 11th Five Year Plan period. The scheme which is project oriented, aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maxmization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. Mega Food Park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. Under the scheme, finanacial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 50% of the project cost in general areas and upto 75% of the project cost in special category states subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore or the cost of approved facilities, whichever is lower, has been envisaged for all implementing agencies.